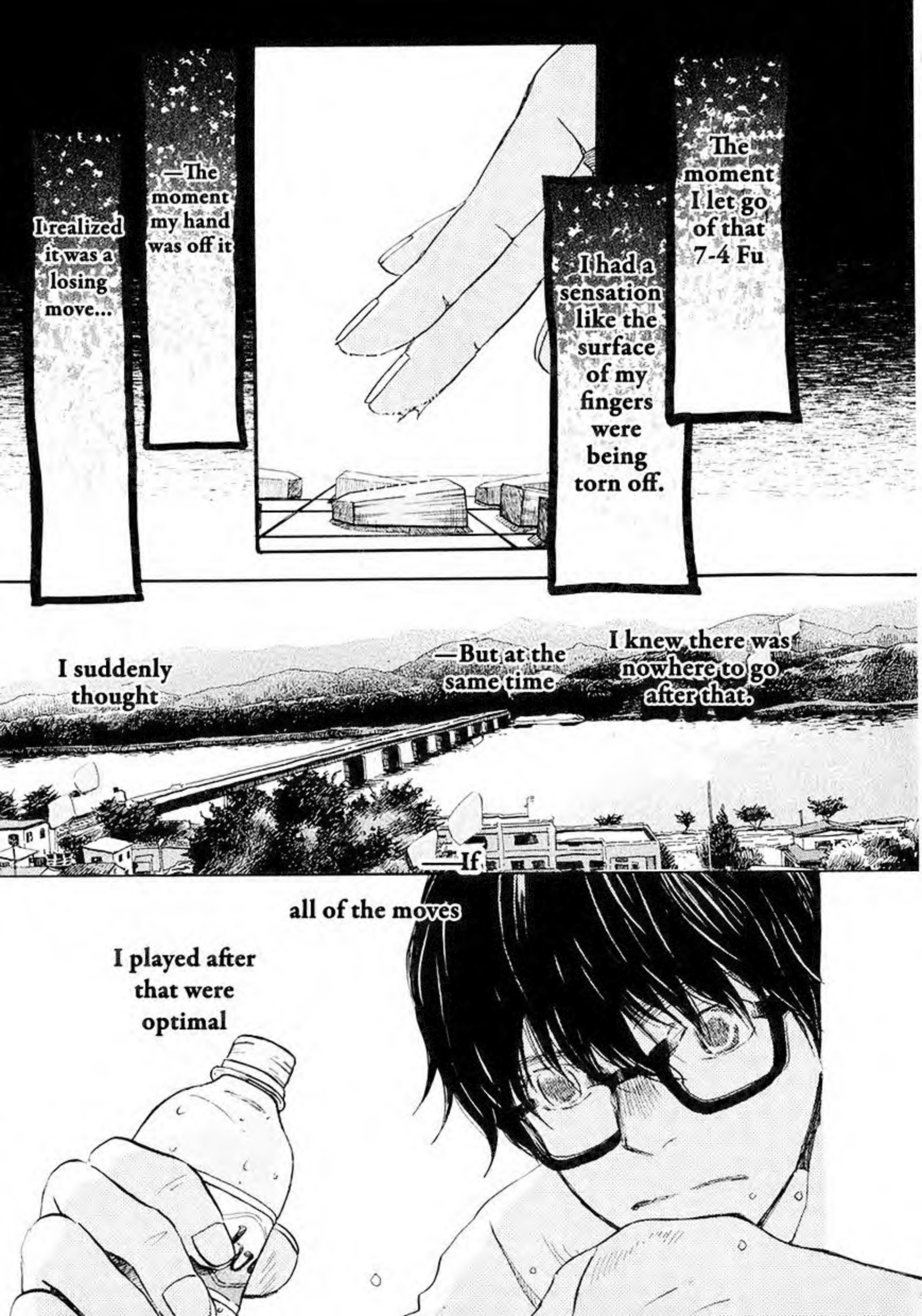
Chapter. 75

White Storm ③

3月のライオン

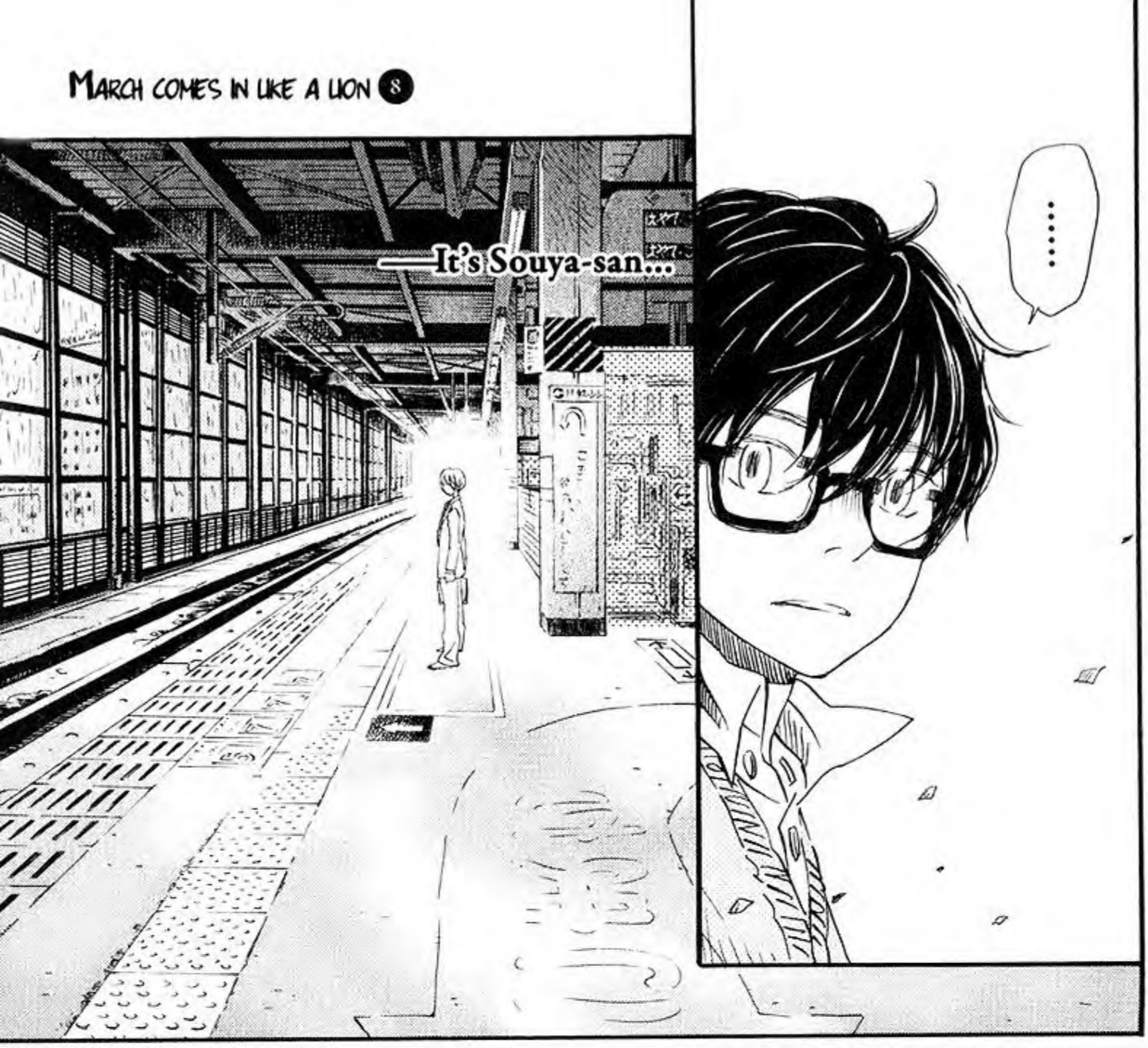
March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino


I realized it was a losing move...
—The moment my hand was off it
I had a sensation like the surface of my fingers were being torn off.
The moment I let go of that 7-4 Fu
I suddenly thought
—But at the same time
I knew there was nowhere to go after that.
—If
all of the moves
I played after that were optimal

how far could I take this game...?
SFX: GOHH

I HAVE CLASS IN THE AFTERNOON - IT'D BE NICE IF THEY MADE IT A HALF-DAY...
IT'D BE NICE IF IT DIDN'T STOP...
THE WIND SURE IS STRONG...
IS THE TYPHOON NOT GOING TO ESCAPE INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN?


—It's Souya-san...
.....

Oh... He must be taking the same shinkansen...
He sure is taking an early train back...
I didn't think he was the type to stay long, but still...

I've watched him.
Ever since I was a kid
has always been alone.
—Yeah...
But in my memory, this person...
I didn't see him laughing or talking either...
I didn't see him interacting with other people all that much ...
—That's right, it's odd.
I fought this person yesterday.
—I battled him
and I lost.....

I lost, but I don't feel tired at all.

My body doesn't feel heavy or anything at all.

—I wonder why.

I've never felt like this before...

—But what really felt clear to me and giving up.

I had no intention of just going in

While I knew there was no way I was going to win from the beginning,

—And that I still have no idea how to shrink that gap.

I was absolutely not catching up.

just due to the period of time which is our 'difference in years'

was that in experience and research

—I'm not sure how to say this,
but I always felt that feeling refreshed and feeling like you enjoyed yourself
after losing was actually really disrespectful to your opponent.
It feels like making a household shrine for your opponent
deciding on your own to go pray there and take it upon yourself to feel refreshed...
—It felt like you weren't thinking of the person as a person.
—That's what I've always thought...
but,
what happened in yesterday's match...?

Whenever I'm competing with another player
no matter how bit the skill difference between us is, to some degree
I can trace what they're thinking.
But with him
it's just
completely blank.
It felt like we were in a pure-white field the whole time we played.
—And it felt really comfortable.
MAN, WHAT WAS GOING ON YESTERDAY...
WITH THAT POST-MORTEM ANALYSIS WITH SOUYA MEIJIN AND KIRIYAMA 5-DAN...?
I'VE NEVER SEEN A GAME LIKE THAT.
THE TWO OF THEM JUST PRESSED FORWARD
WITHOUT SAYING A SINGLE THING.

AFTER THE GAME ENDED AND THEY STARTED THE POST-MORTEM
KIRIYAMA SUDDENLY STARTED SILENTLY LINING UP THE PIECES WITH SO MUCH ENERGY.
—AND THEN
THEY WENT UP TO THE 63RD MOVE
AND HE THEN PLAYED 6-6 GIN
WHICH WASN'T IN THE ACTUAL GAME.
WHEN THAT HAPPENED, SOUYA MEIJN
NODDED JUST A LITTLE BIT.
I GUESS THAT 7-4 FU REALLY WAS THE LOSING MOVE FOR KIRIYAMA.
I SUPPOSE HE WAS SAYING THE 6-6 GIN PLAYED IN THE POST-MORTEM WAS MORE PROMISING.

"That's how it is."
"THAT'S HOW IT IS"

I was thinking "There's a world like this!"
—It got through even though I didn't say it.
I thought he might have accidentally said what he was thinking out loud.
It surprised me when that happened.

I was in a place where it was quiet,

—After 12 hours, on reaching Sendai Station the shinkansen stopped moving.

What do
I do?

His face looks like none of that is reaching him.
My heart's beating really loudly.

All of the pieces matched.
so I pulled his arm.
I felt I couldn't leave him alone
It wasn't that sound seemed to disappear everywhere around this person.
It was that sound
had gone from inside him.

How?
When did it start?
—I don't know.
But nothing reaches
those ears
anymore.
Chapter 75 END

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Chica Umino

HI WA MATA NOBORU

THE SUN WILL RISE AGAIN

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 8

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